



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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Dear Interested Parties:

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This draft report is the product of a cooperative effort by fifteen state and federal agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta ecosystem. Its purpose is to develop a long-term plan to restore ecosystem health and improve water management of the Bay-Delta system. The objective of this collaborative planning process is to identify comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity. **We encourage your comments on this document before the end of the public comment period which is from June 25, 1999 to September 23, 1999.**

This Programmatic EIS/EIR is a joint product of the efforts of each of the CALFED participating agencies, and represents a major step in the process toward collectively achieving CALFED's objectives. It identifies a Preferred Program Alternative to achieve these objectives, and evaluates the environmental impacts of proceeding with this plan. It also analyzes the environmental impacts of each of three alternatives and compares the Draft Preferred Program Alternative to the other alternatives. Each of the alternatives includes the core programs which address issues of ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, water quality, Delta levee and channel integrity, water transfers, and watershed management coordination, as well as a range of storage and conveyance options.

The primary purpose of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is to inform decision-makers and the public about the impacts the various alternatives could have on both the human and the natural environment and to evaluate how well the alternatives meet the Program purposes. Because the Program is a long-term plan for the Bay-Delta ecosystem, the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a programmatic level planning document focusing on the interrelated long-term and cumulative consequences of the various alternatives. Subsequent environmental review for the project-specific actions involved in implementation of the Program will follow the approval of the Final EIS/EIR.

A concise explanation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, its purposes and the process by which we plan to proceed to our objective is included in the Revised Phase II Report, which is an appendix to the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. Readers may want to begin with this report to better understand the whole of the Program before reviewing the more detailed information in the remainder of the document.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Food and Agriculture

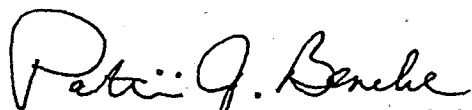
Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration

Many of you commented on the previous Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program that was issued in March of 1998. We have addressed many of the issues raised by those comments by either making changes in the Program or explaining the Program's response to those issues as part of the Program appendices. However, this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a new document, and comments on the previous version may not apply to this new document. Therefore, if you wish to comment on this document, you will need to forward any comments to CALFED during the review period between June 25, 1999 and September 23, 1999.

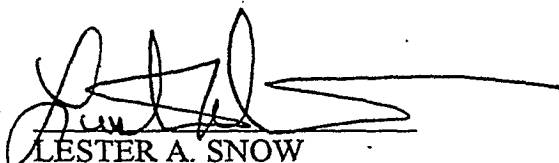
We invite you to share with us your comments on this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. Comments should be forwarded to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814; Attention: Rick Breitenbach, before the close of the public comment period on September 23, 1999. For further information including a list of Public Hearing locations, call CALFED at (800) 900-3587.



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Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
U. S. Department of the Interior



MARY NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources
State of California



LESTER A. SNOW
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Enclosure